Seven Variations

on a French Noël

for **Organ**

Fruhauf Music Publications

2019

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on a French Noël
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Seven Variations on a **Noël** [*A la venue de Noël*] is modeled after some of the less familiar repertoire of César Franck's two volumes entitled *L'Organiste*.The variations are restrained but colorful in their display of chromatic harmonies and countrapuntal devices, conceived as a set of miniatures in the tradition of period pieces written for harmonium, or for the choir organ (*l'orgue du choeur*). Franck's *Prélude, Fugue, et Variation* has also also figured inevitably in its overall design, as becomes apparent in the *fugato* and seventh variation.

The source melody and theme, "*A la venue de Noël,"* has been restructured into repeated phrases [ab ab cc], an element that holds constant in all but the fourth and sixth variations. Following a gently introspective first statement, the second variation makes use of boldly animated contrapuntal imitation between three lower voices, accompanying the carol's tune sounded above. In the third variation, the carol migrates between the bass (i.e. pedal) and soprano lines. The fourth movement presents the tune in canon between tenor and bass lines, with an ornamental accompaniment shared between two treble voices. The fifth variation is similar to the third, but with a repeat of the carol's final phrase in the alto voice.

The ***Fugato*** features paired overlapping statements of its two-phrase subject in stretto. Repetitions of a three-note motif — one that has been an accompanimental building block throughout the variations — provide a counter-subject to accompany the fugue's subject as it moves from one voice to another, toward a final appearance in the pedal. The seventh movement displays elaborative elements reminiscent of Franck's variation (mentioned above), with a flowing current of sixteenth notes to accompany the carol. Following intensified development and a dramatic pause, an extended coda reprises the opening variation's introspective mood, waxes briefly but grandly with curiously Elgarian eloquence, then settles into a gently pastoral conclusion.

As conceived and styled, the variations bear a dedication to Dr. Robert Glasgow: he provided the University of Michigan's School of Music and Organ Department with years of dedicated organ instruction, inspiring generations of students with his love of — and penchant for — latter 19th and early 20th-century Romantic music, its expressive elements and traditions. It is also an homage to César Franck and his unique musical legacy, as well as to the unusual cultural milieu that fostered such unique arts.

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In memory of
Dr. Robert [Ellison] Glasgow
(1925–2008)

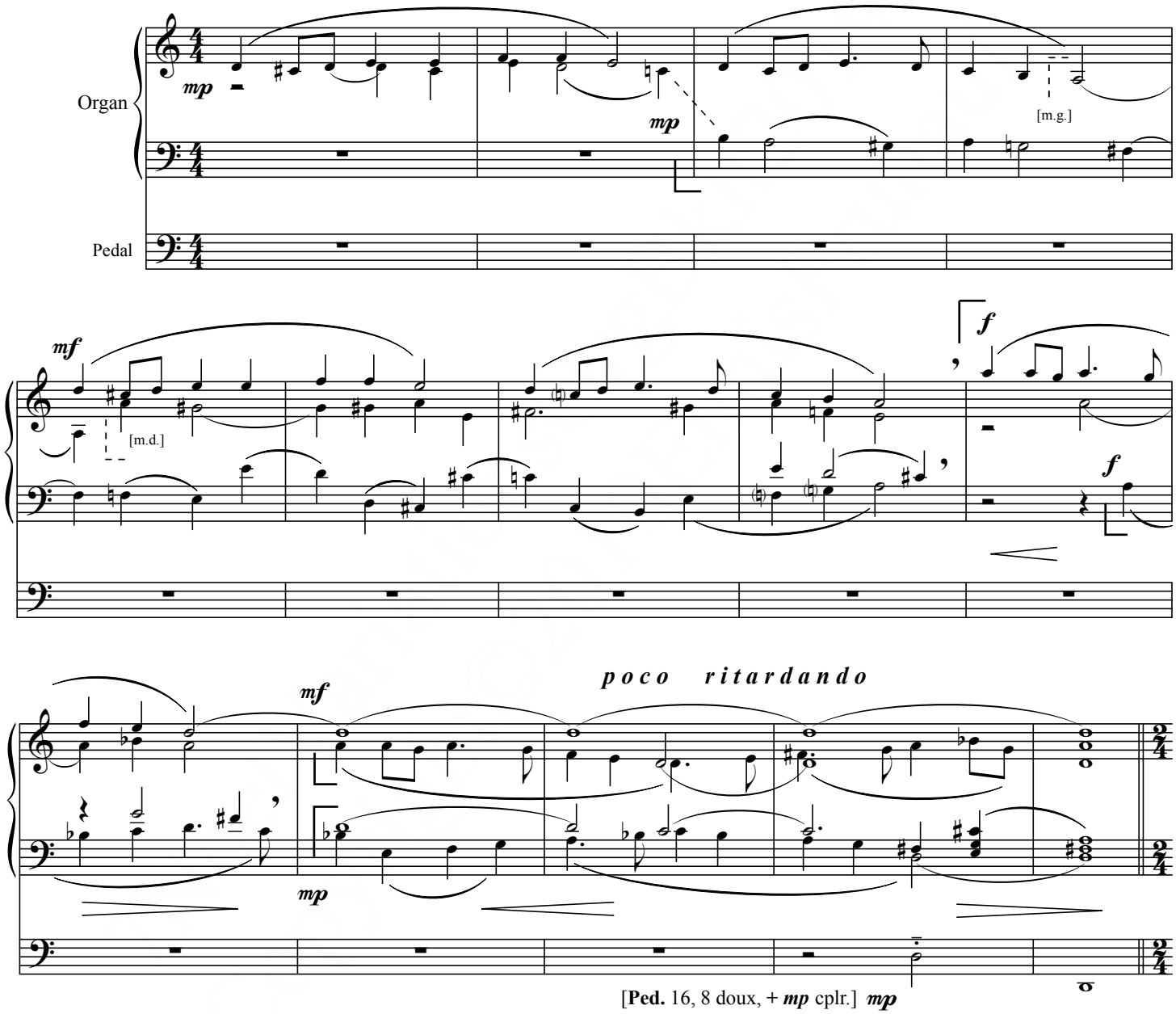
Seven Variations on a Noël

I. Adagio

("A la venue de Noël")

Ennis Fruhauf

[***mp***: Fonds doux 8, 4]
[***mf***: Fonds doux 8, 4, + ***mp*** cplr.]



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II. Adagio, animato

[***mf***: Fonds, Anches doux (16), 8, 4, +]
[***f***: Fonds, Anches (16), 8, 4, + ***mf*** cplr.]

1.) ***f***
2.) ***mf***

[**Ped:** Fonds, Anches doux (16), 8, 4, + ***mf, f*** cplrs.]

1.) ***f*** **Ped.** ***détaché***

2.) ***mf***

1.) ***mf***
2.) ***f***

1ª volta: [**-*f*-Ped.**]

f

f

[**+*f*-Ped.**]

ritardando poco a poco

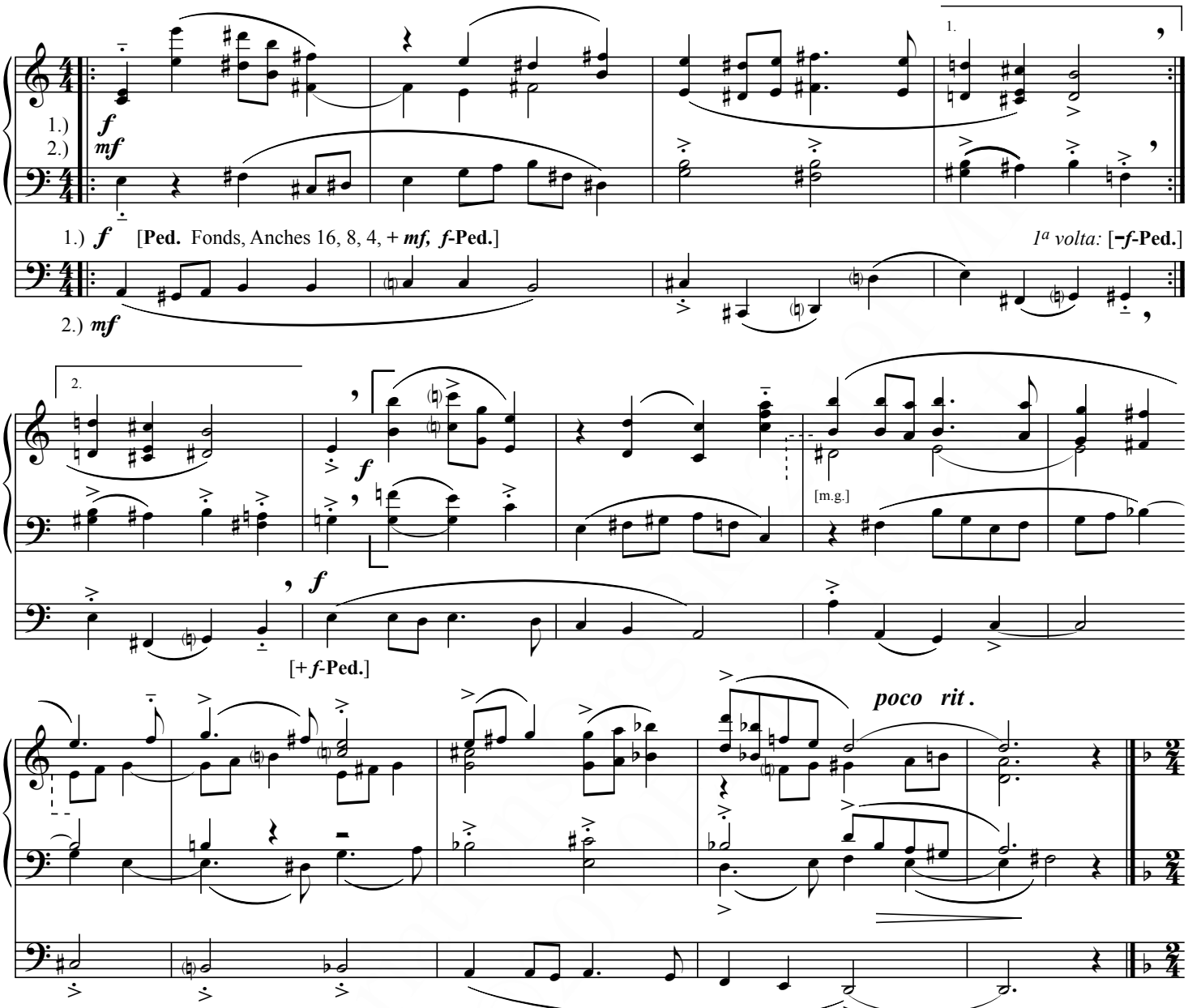
mf

mf

[**- *f*-Ped.**]

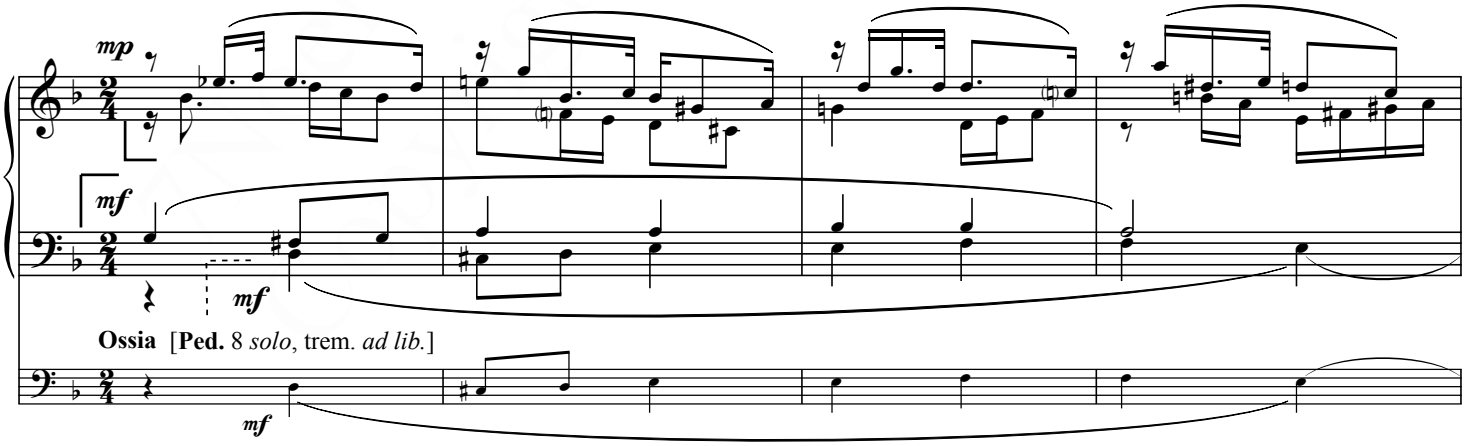
III. Adagio risoluto

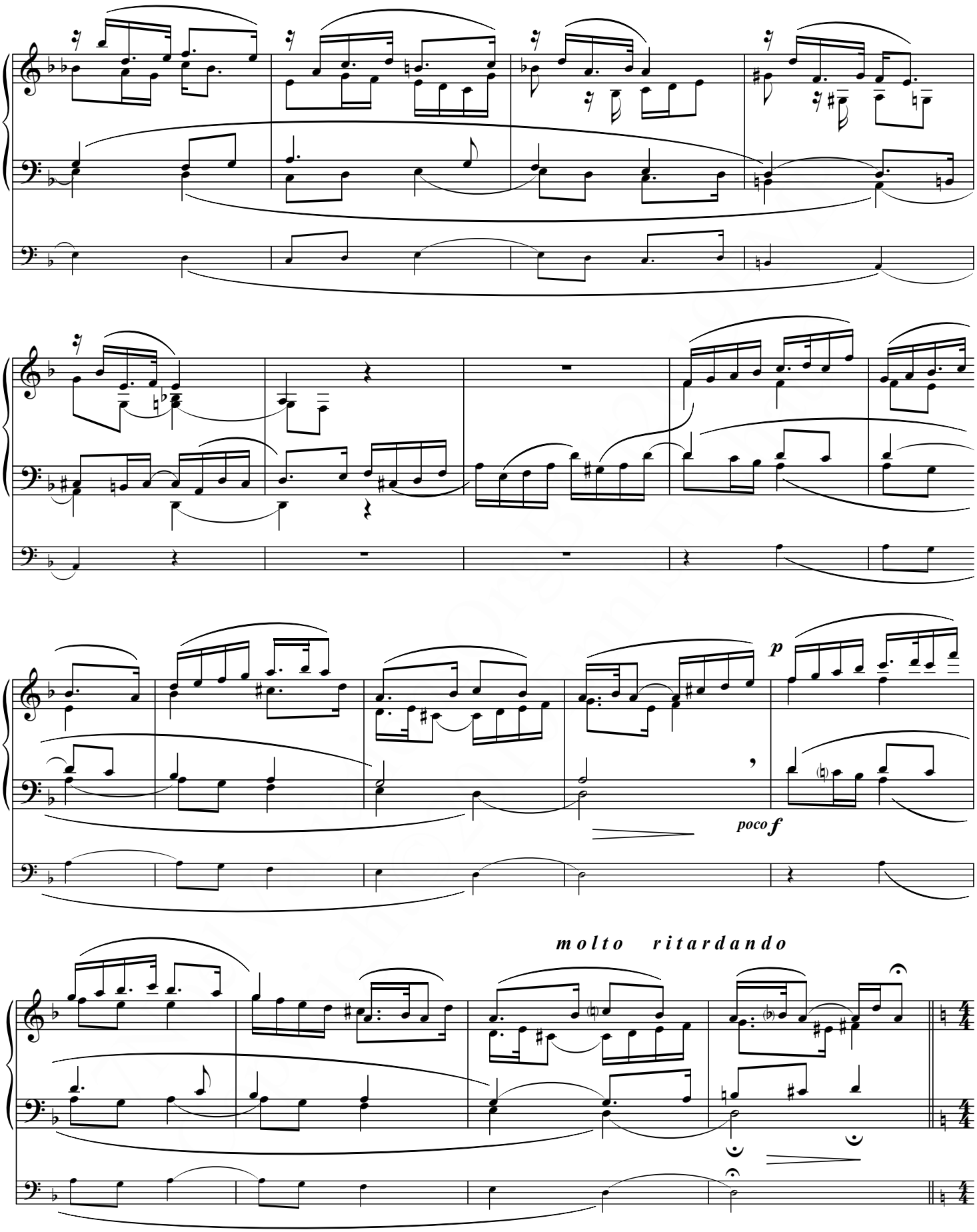
[***mf***: Fonds, Anches doux 8, 4, +]
[***f***: Fonds, Anches 8, 4, + ***mf***]



IV. Larghetto, espressivo

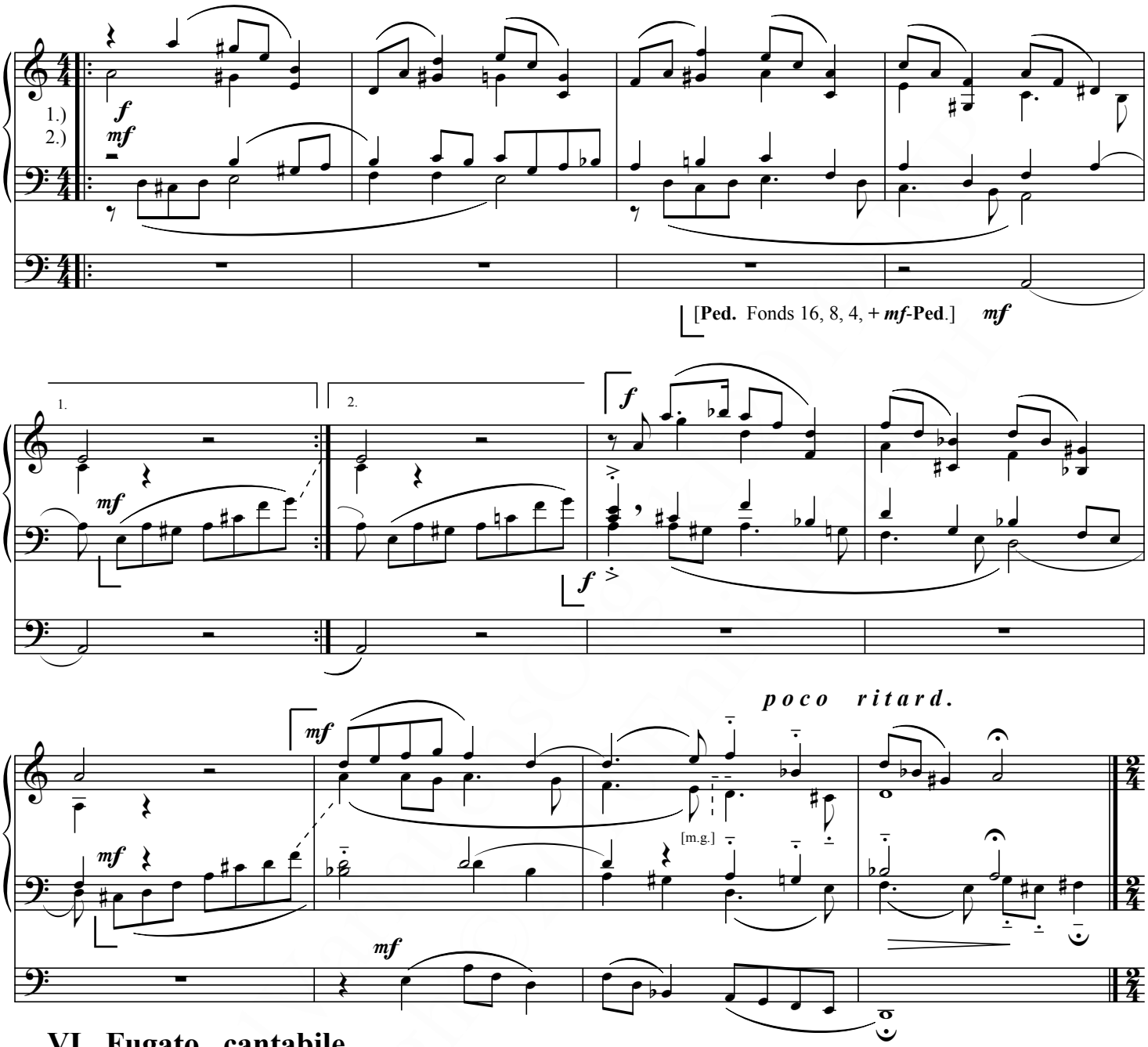
[***mp***: Flutes 8, (4)]
[***mf***: Fonds 8, (4), or Anche douce 8 *solo*, trem. *ad lib.*]




p
poco f
molto ritardando

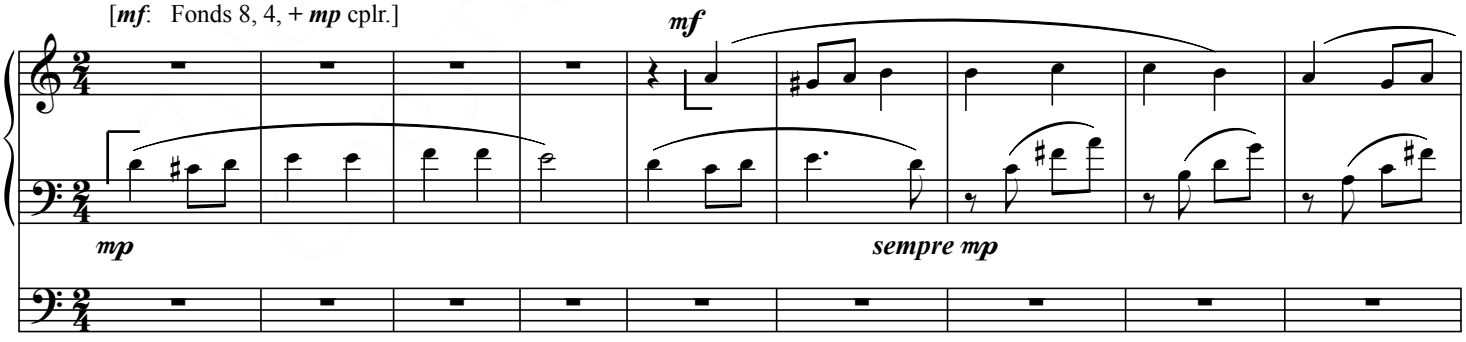
V. Adagio risoluto

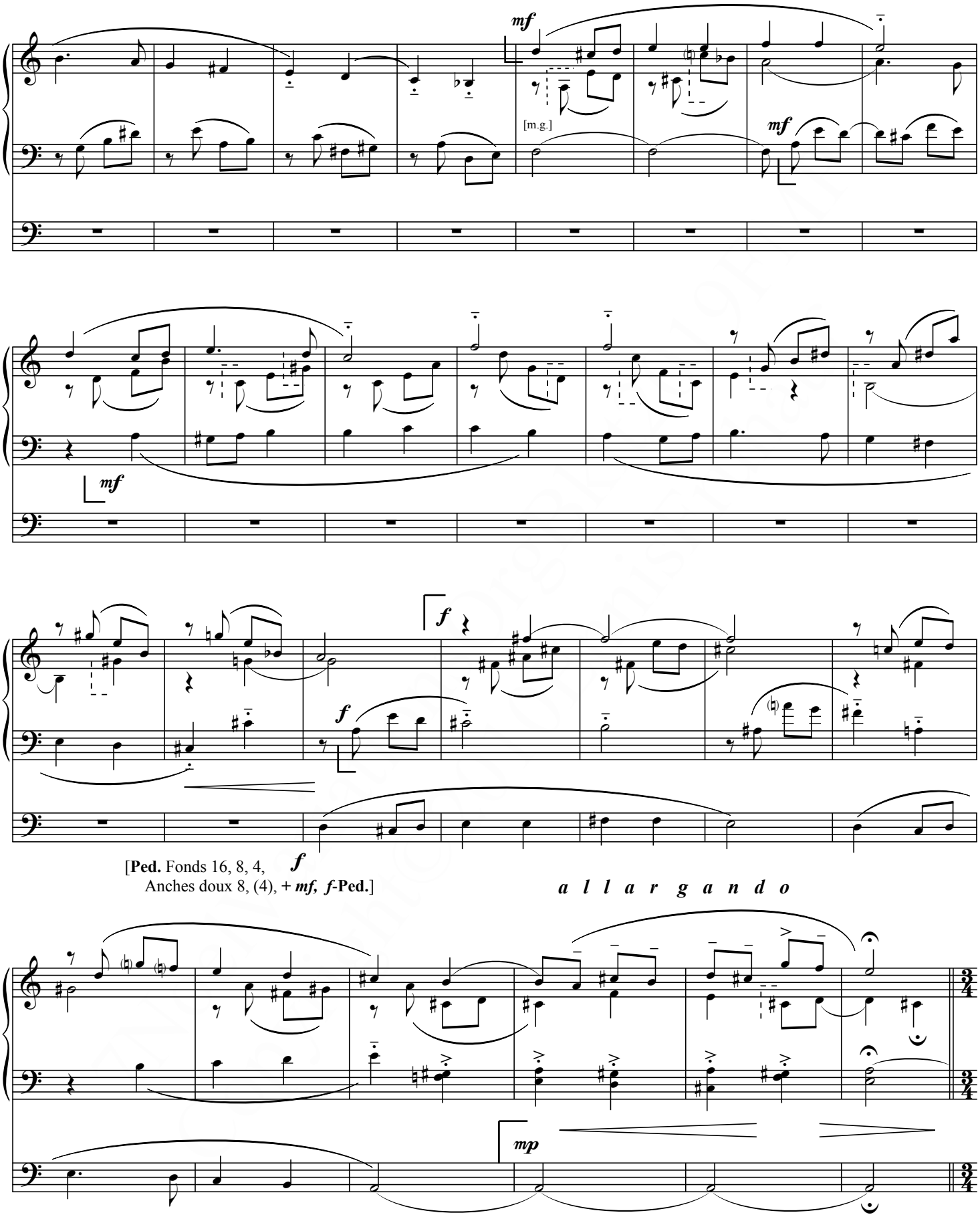
[***mf***: Fonds 8, 4]
[***f***: Fonds 8, 4, +, Anches doux 8, + ***mf*** Cplr.]



VI. Fugato, cantabile

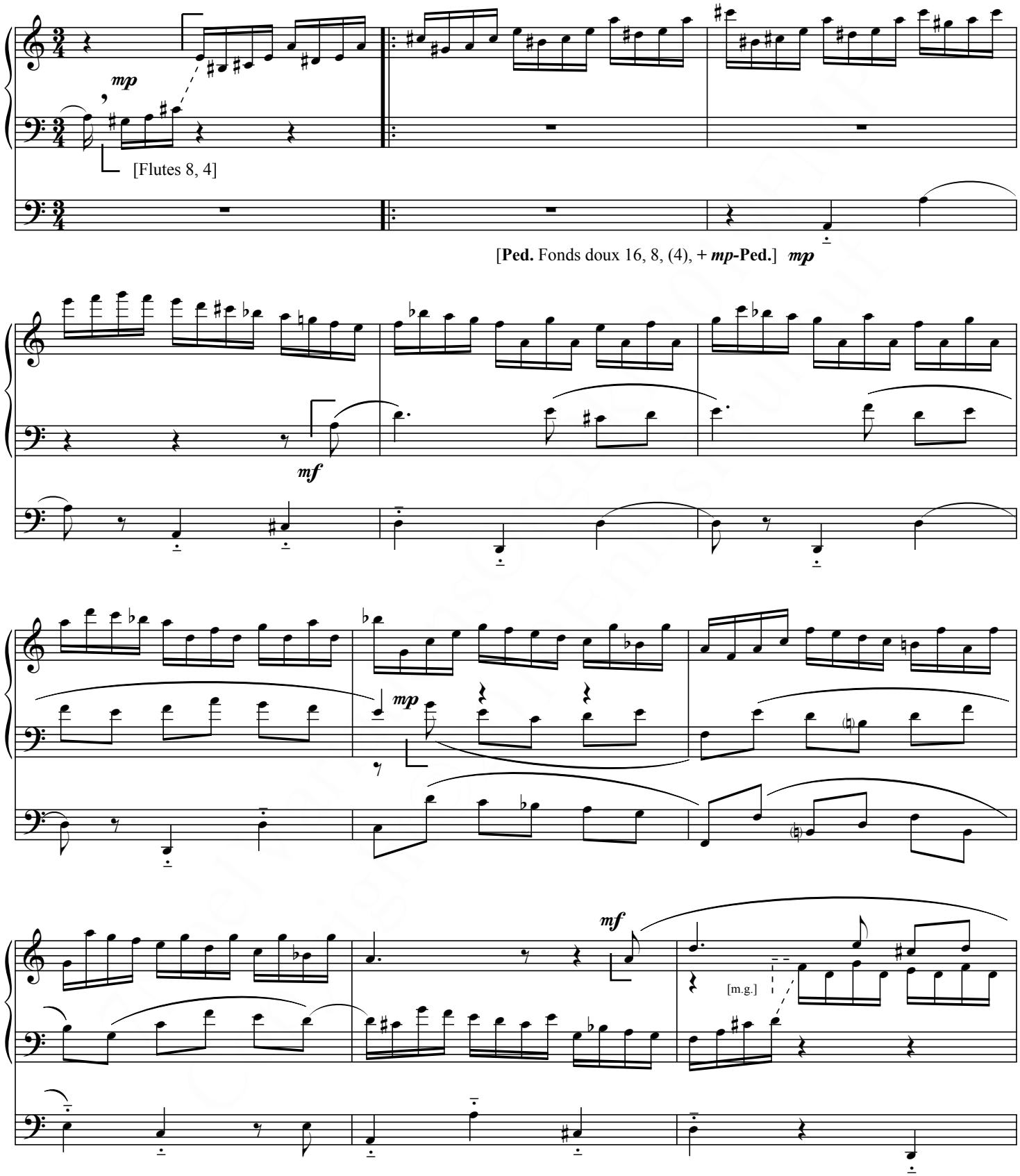
[***mp***: Fonds 8, 4]
[***mf***: Fonds 8, 4, + ***mp*** cplr.]

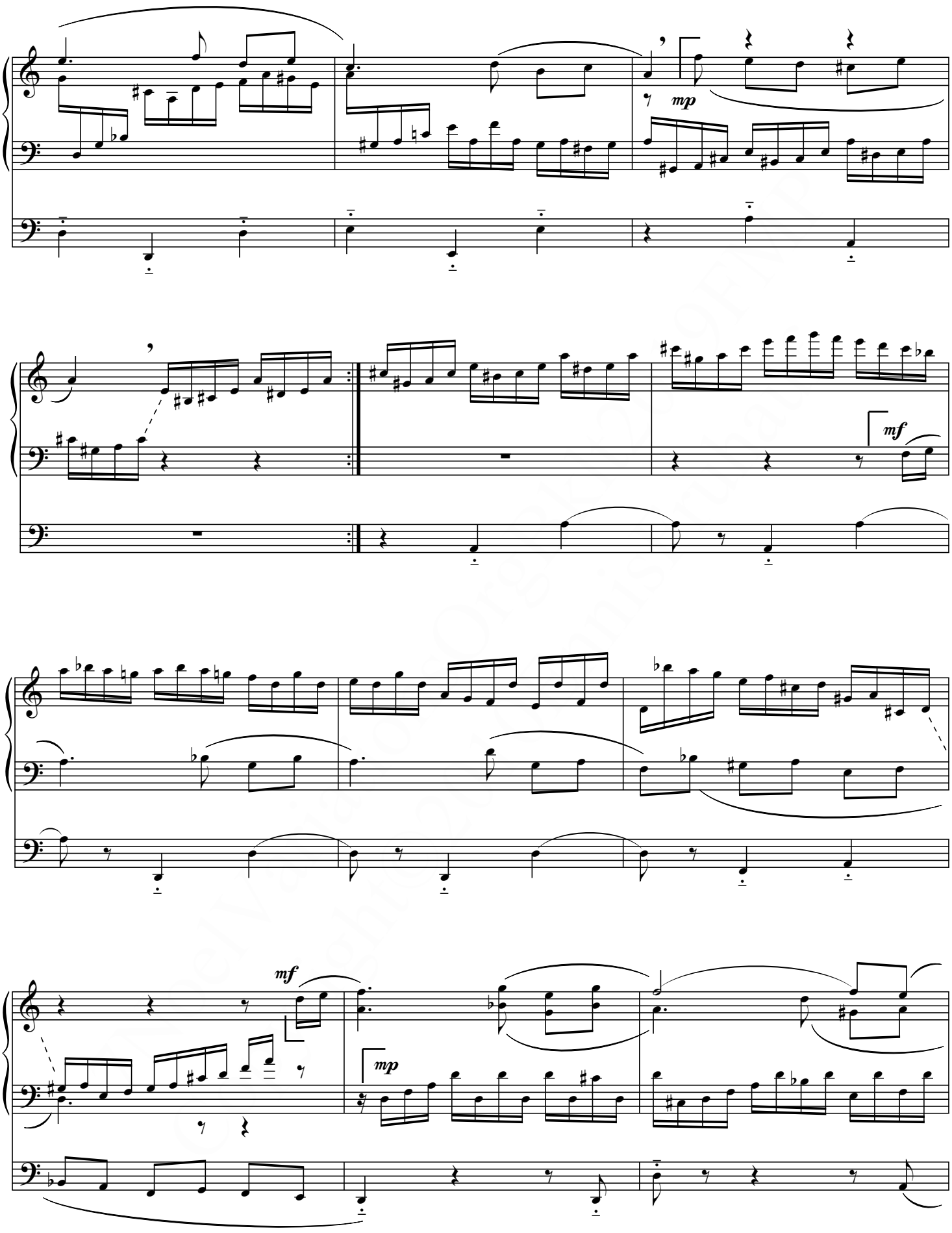


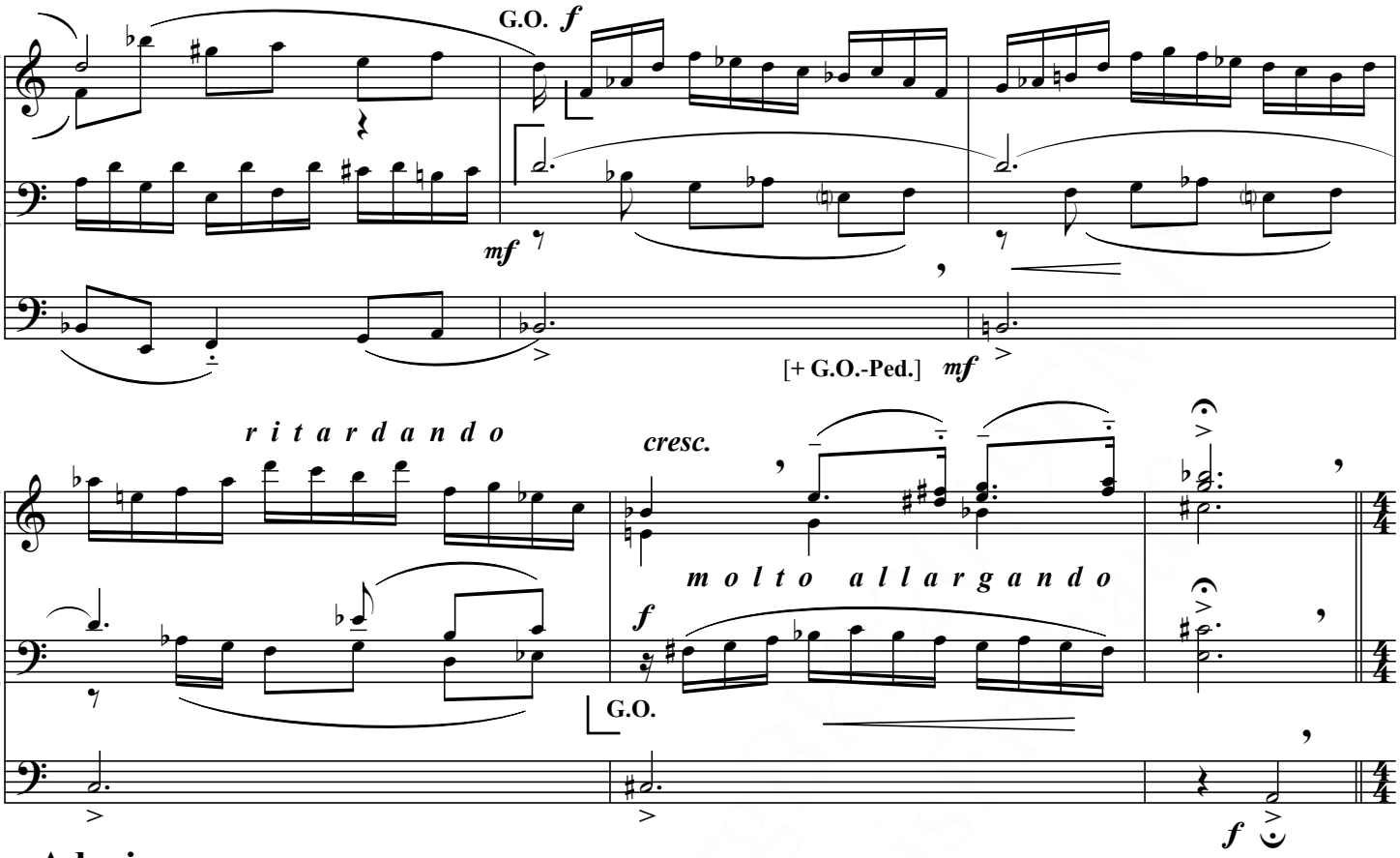

mf
[m.g.]
mf
mf
f
f
f
[**Ped.** Fonds 16, 8, 4,
Anches doux 8, (4), + ***mf, f*-Ped.**]
a l l a r g a n d o
mp

VII. Adagio cantabile

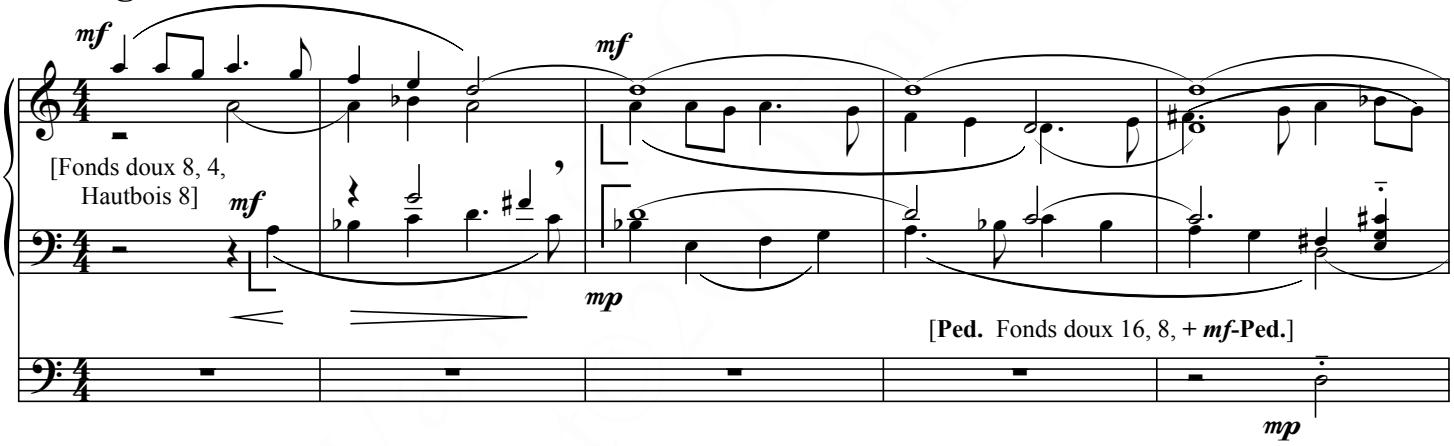
[***mp***: Flutes 8, 4]
[***mf***: Anche solo 8, Flute 8]
[***f***: G.O. Fonds et Anches doux 8, 4, + ***mp, mf***-Ped.]

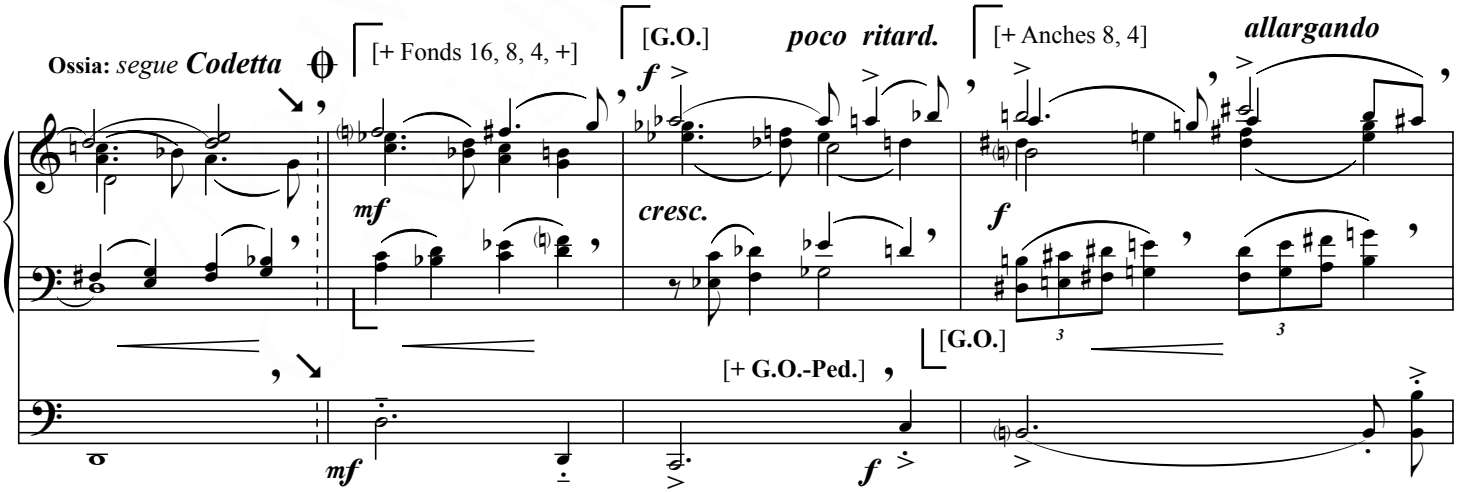


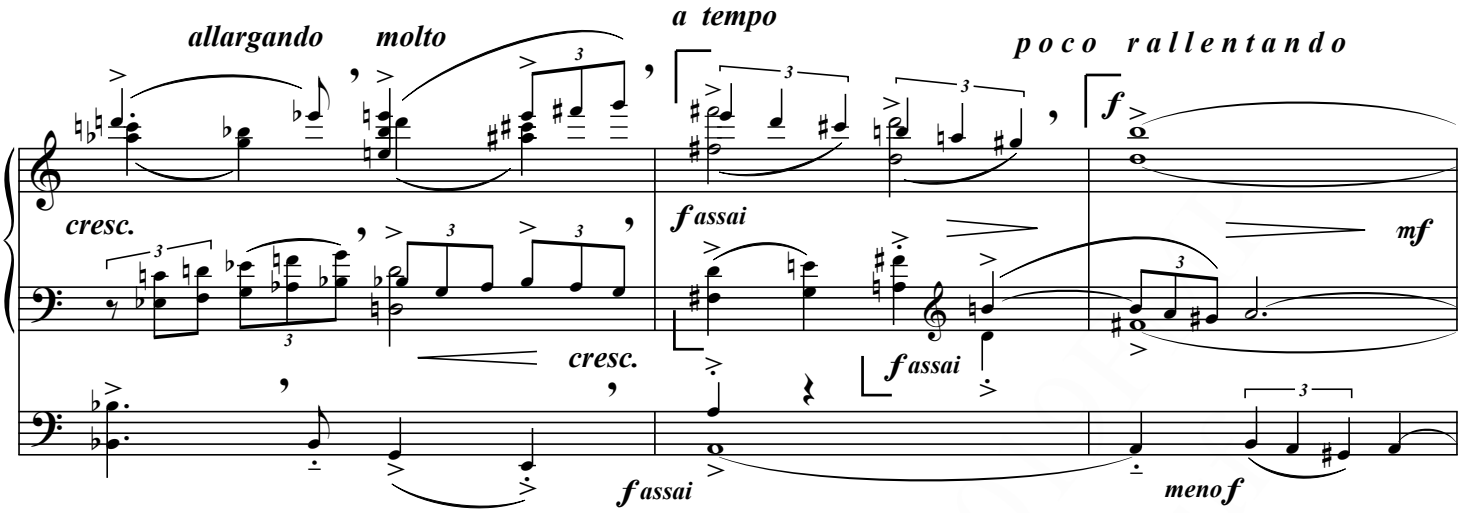

mp
mf
mf
mp


G.O. f
mf
[+ G.O.-Ped.] mf
r i t a r d a n d o
cresc.
m o l t o a l l a r g a n d o
f
G.O.
f

Adagio

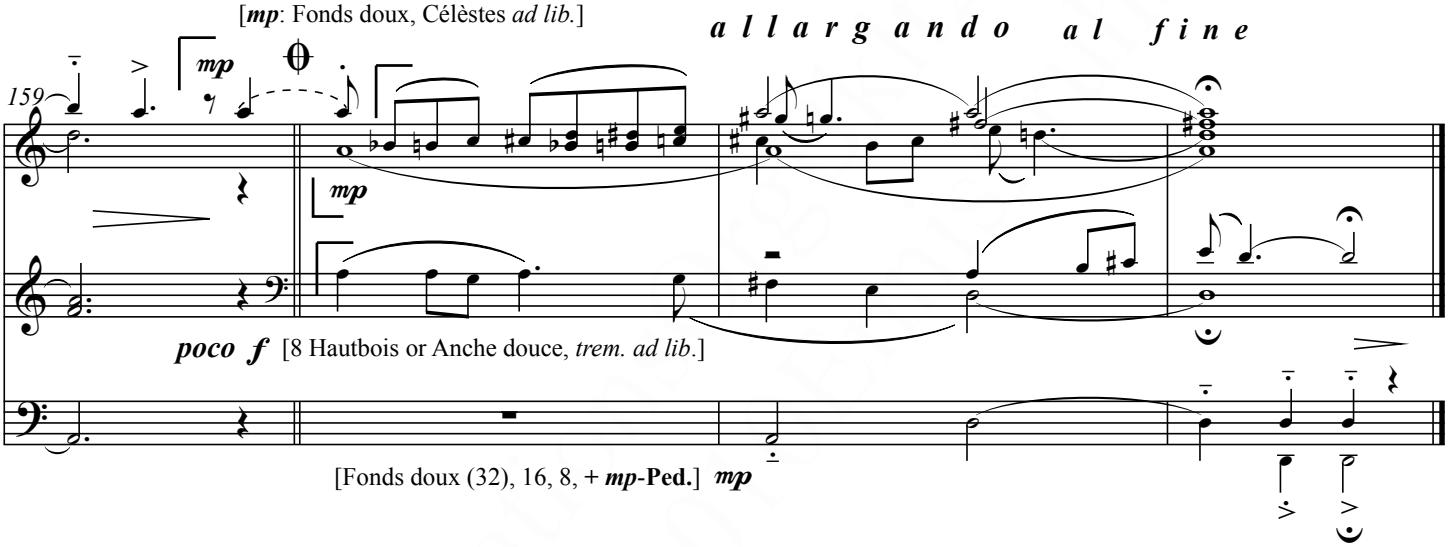

mf
mf
[Fonds doux 8, 4, Hautbois 8]
mf
mp
[Ped. Fonds doux 16, 8, + mf-Ped.]
mp


Ossia: segue Codetta
[+ Fonds 16, 8, 4, +]
[G.O.]
poco ritard.
[+ Anches 8, 4]
allargando
f
mf
cresc.
f
[G.O.]
[+ G.O.-Ped.]
mf
f



Codetta quasi a tempo

[***mp***: Fonds doux, Célèstes *ad lib.*]



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P.O. Box 22043
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-2043 USA
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